

NEW DIRECTIONS IN BLACK DISABILITY STUDIES

APRIL 25, 2025

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA,
MINOR HALL



Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following groups at UVA for their generous support of the conference: Carter G. Woodson Institute, Center for Global Inquiry and Innovation, Page-Barbour Lectures, Disability Studies Initiative, Department of English, ASL Program, Department of Women, Gender, & Sexuality, Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. We would also like to thank the Disability History Association, the Virginia Association on Higher Education and Disability, the Department of History at William & Mary, and the African Journal of Disability for their support of the conference.

Support for the travel of international scholars came from the Center for Global Inquiry and Innovation. The Disability History Association supported the travel of three graduate students whose historical research is being presented at the conference.

As the Program Committee, Jennifer Erkulwater, Kelsey Henry, Sarah Orsak, and Aron Marie, committed hours of their time to this conference. They freely gave their time to review all of the excellent paper submissions and arrange the successful submissions into the exciting panels you will attend today.

I would like to personally thank everyone at the Carter G. Woodson Institute for their support of this conference. Robert T. Vinson taught me the moving parts of conference planning and encouraged me throughout. Nemata Blyden provided critical support during the grant writing process and Kevin Gaines provided important feedback throughout the last year. Debbie Best, Randy Swift, James Perla, and Gabrielle Mashkouri were each generous with their advice and support of this project. Without their work, this conference would not have been possible.

Additionally, the Disability Studies Initiative at UVA provided important support for the development of this conference. I would especially like to thank Elizabeth Ellcessor for connecting me with several important individuals on grounds and for advising me during the grant writing process.

Kristin Roush and Martina Svyantek were essential to the development and implementation of the conference's accessibility plan.

I would also like to thank Stefanie Hunt-Kennedy and Laurel Daen who graciously shared their experiences planning the Disability in Vast Early America Conference with me. Their ideas were foundational to the conference you are now attending.

I would especially like to thank our Stefanie Hunt-Kennedy, Keith Mayes, Rezenet Moges-Riedel, Therí Pickens, Dennis Tyler for their commitment to the field and support of the conference.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the difficulty of carrying on our research and activism in these times. The basic programs that many rely on to live their lives are under threat, and we know that Black disabled people are particularly vulnerable to the threats to education and Medicaid funding. People are being disappeared, many from our college campuses, simply for using their voice to denounce genocide. In this increasingly dismal political climate, may all of our research be stones in the foundation of a better world.

Program Overview

8:00 AM	Breakfast at Minor Hall
9:00-10:30 AM	First Panel Session
10:30-10:45 AM	Break
10:45-12:15 PM	Second Panel Session
12:15-1:15 PM	Lunch in Minor Hall
1:15-2:45 PM	Third Panel Session
2:45-3:00 PM	Break
3:00-4:30 PM	Fourth Panel Session
4:30-4:45 PM	Break
4:45-6:45 PM	Keynote Panel
7:00 PM	Dinner at Minor Hall
8:00 PM	Concert

Program
(All times are EST)

8:00 AM – Breakfast at Minor Hall

9:00-10:30 AM – First Panel Session

In the Wake of *Partus*: Black Women, Disability, and Social Reproduction

Room: Minor 125

Zoom: <https://cwm.zoom.us/j/84846035262>

Chair: **Leslie Alexander**, *Rutgers University*

Olivia Haynes, *University of Massachusetts, Amherst*

"She Breeds Too Fast": Enslaved Black Maternity and Social Reproduction in 18th and 19th Century Print Culture.

Keziah Anderson, *Harvard University*

Reproducing (Dis)Inheritance: Imperial Expansion & the Enduring Mark of the Black Mother's Womb in Postbellum Indian Territory.

Bea Pearson, *Rutgers University*

Impaired and Imperfect: A Historical Meditation on Disability, Gender, and Devaluation in Slavery's Archive.

Daniela Valdes, *Rutgers University*

"I slept on and on": Historicizing Neurodivergence in the Archives of Criminalization.

Narrating Black Disability: Autoethnography, Autobiography, and Literature

Room: Minor 110

Zoom: <https://cwm.zoom.us/j/89342092464>

Chair: **Alexandria Smith**, *University of Virginia*

Sinchan Chatterjee, *University of California, Berkeley*

Down with the Ivory Tower: Reading Self-Narratives of Black Autistic Individuals.

Matida Daffeh, *University of Toronto*

An Autoethnographic Exploration of the Intersections of Race, Disability, Immigration, and Religion: A Black African Refugee Mother's Story.

Robert Volpicelli, *Randolph-Macon College*
Ralph Ellison's Visually Impaired Man.

10:30-10:45 AM – Break

10:45-12:15 PM – Second Panel Session

Disability in (Post)Colonial Nigeria

Room: New Cabell 309

Zoom:

<https://virginia.zoom.us/j/99227052211?pwd=ob0HNUsWR1IndR3TpSY0tT1E869Clh.1>

Chair: **Nemata Blyden**, *University of Virginia*

Vitalis Nwashindu, *University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee*

“From Moral to Physical Disabilities”: An Interrogation of the impact of European Colonialism on the notion of disability among the Igbo of southern Nigeria, 1860-1960.

Theophilus Okunlola, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*

Notes on Curative Violence, Colonial Biomedicine, and Black Spirituality and Care Ethics.

Muhammed Faisol Olaitan, *Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoso*

Interrogating the Exclusion of Women with Disability from COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency Responses and their Lockdown Experiences in Lagos State, Nigeria.

Rasheed Alao Hassan, *Florida International University*

Urban Threat: Disability in Colonial Western Nigeria, 1900-1960.

The Struggle for Education

Room: New Cabell 323

Zoom:

<https://virginia.zoom.us/j/95776793919?pwd=reUk84Gs9hVP4ecx6PQ5N9dpgXCXRa.1>

Chair: **Mandy Rispoli**, *University of Virginia*

Malachi Chukwu, *Washington State University, Pullman* and
James Onukwu, *Federal University Otuoke*

The Other Experiences of Black Disabled Students in Higher Education in Africa: Expanding Inclusion.

Kat Stephens-Peace, *Ball State University*

Amelia Palmer, *Gallaudet University*

Addressing Racism and Disability Discrimination in 19th and 20th Century Canada.

Building Capacity for Black Mad Liberation

Room: Minor 110

Zoom: <https://cwm.zoom.us/j/89342092464>

Chair: **Ngozi Alston**

Discussants: **Rise Osby, Joselia Rebekah Hughes, Elmina Bell**

12:15-1:15 PM – Lunch in Minor Hall

1:15-2:45 PM – Third Panel Session

Carceral Systems, Psychiatry, and Pathologized Black Criminality

Room: New Cabell 309

Zoom:

<https://virginia.zoom.us/j/99227052211?pwd=ob0HNUsWR1IndR3TpSY0tT1E869Clh.1>

Chair: **Micah Khater**, University of California, Berkeley

Elizabeth Maher, *University of Illinois, Chicago*

Oddicle and Crazy Survival : Talking Back to the Criminalization and Pathologization of Black Neuroexpansivity in the Psych Ward and on the Page.

Sarah Malone, *University of Illinois, Chicago* and **Julian Thompson**, *University of Illinois, Chicago*

The Micropolitics of Community Reintegration in Mental Health Courts.

Shelby Pumphrey, *University of Louisville*

Meeting at the Crossroads: Towards a Hoodoo History of Black Disability.

Representing Black Disability

Room: Minor 110

Zoom: <https://cwm.zoom.us/j/89342092464>

Chair: **Rezenet Moges-Riedel**, *California State University, Long Beach*

Kianna M. Middleton, *Dartmouth College*

Being One and Being with Black Disability Histories:
Toward a Mad Black Archive

Jerrold Hirsch, *Truman State University*

"I Worked As Long As I Was Able": Slavery, Freedom,
and Disability in the FWP
Slave Narratives.

Suchitra Chatterjee, *Brighton University*, and **Mary L. Shannon**, *University of Roehampton*

Billy Waters as a 'Disability Trailblazer': addressing
histories of Race and Disability in Curatorial Practice.

Decolonial Critiques of Disability Studies: African Perspectives

Room: New Cabell 323

Zoom:

<https://virginia.zoom.us/j/95776793919?pwd=reUk84Gs9hVP4ecx6PQ5N9dpgXCXRa.1>

Chair: **Jaira J. Harrington**, *University of Illinois, Chicago*

Juliah Modula, *University of Free State*

Economic and Infrastructural Support Needs in the Rural Families of Children with Intellectual Disabilities in Limpopo Province, South Africa.

Joachim Nyomi, *World Bank Project in Zambia*

Decolonizing the Ethics Committees in Disability Studies: Reflections from the Global South-The Zambian Experience.

Rachael Wanjagua, *University of Texas, Austin*

A Call to Reimagine Research Methodologies in Disability Research in the African Continent.

2:45-3:00 PM – Break

3:00-4:30 PM – Fourth Panel Session

New Theoretical Perspectives on Black Disability: On Age, "Autigender," and the Crip Zombie

Room: Minor 125

Zoom: <https://cwm.zoom.us/j/84846035262>

Chair: **Kelsey Henry**, *Princeton University*

Suzanne Nimoh, *University of Texas, Austin*

Unearthing the Zombie as a Black, Crip, Animal.

Tolonda Henderson, *University of Connecticut*

'We're Just *Kids*': Adultification as Racial Injury in Mark Oshiro's *Anger is a Gift*.

Danielle Procope Bell, *University of Tennessee, Knoxville*

Looking Towards Black Feminist Critical Autism Studies.

Defining Black Disability: US Histories of Rights, Labor, and Citizenship

Room: New Cabell 323

<https://virginia.zoom.us/j/95776793919?pwd=reUk84Gs9hVP4ecx6PQ5N9dpgXCXRa.1>

Chair: Elizabeth Ellcessor, *University of Virginia*

Frances O'Shaughnessy, *University of Toronto*

Black Soldiers and Disability as a Racial Category in US Pension Law.

Keith Rosenthal, *City University of New York*

The Struggle Against Racial Segregation at the New York Association of the Blind in the 1930s.

Sarah Orsak, *University of Virginia*

Racial Liberalism's Disability Metaphors.

Intersections of Gender, Disability, and Blackness in the Long Nineteenth Century

Room: Minor 110

Zoom: <https://cwm.zoom.us/j/89342092464>

Chair: **Jenifer Barclay**, *University of Buffalo*

Jennifer W. Reiss, *University of Pennsylvania*, *Becoming "Mumbet": Disability, Domestic Labor, and the Limits of Emancipation in the Early Republic.*

Mia Edwards, *University of Warwick*, *Emotion and Physical Disability amongst Enslaved Men in the Nineteenth Century U.S. South.*

Kathryn Angelica, *Purdue University Fort Wayne*, *"Borderland between Earth and Heaven": Interabled and Multigenerational Black Womanhood within Boston's Home for Aged Colored Women*

4:30-4:45 PM – Break

4:45-6:45 PM – Keynote Panel**New Directions in Black Disability Studies Keynote Panel**

Room: Minor 125

Zoom: <https://cwm.zoom.us/j/84846035262>

Chair: **Robert T. Vinson**, *University of Virginia*

Presenters:

Stefanie Hunt-Kennedy, *University of New Brunswick*

Rezenet Moges-Riedel, *California State University, Long Beach*

Therí Pickens, *Bates College*

Dennis Tyler, *Fordham University*

7:00 PM – Dinner at Minor Hall**8:00 PM – Concert****WaWa's World**

Room: Minor 125

Zoom: <https://cwm.zoom.us/j/84846035262>

WAWA'S WORLD



APRIL 25, 2025

8PM || MINOR HALL 125

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Held in conjunction with the New Directions in Black Disability Studies Conference (UVA). Sponsored by the DisCoTech Center (VT and UNCC) with funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

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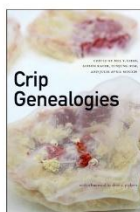
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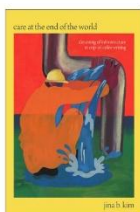
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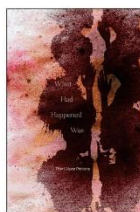
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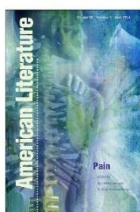
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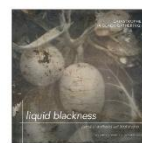
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A Queer Black Feminist
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**SHONIQUE ROACH,
EDITOR**
differences 35:2



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**SARI ALTSCHULER
AND THOMAS
CONSTANTINESCO, ISSUE
EDITORS**
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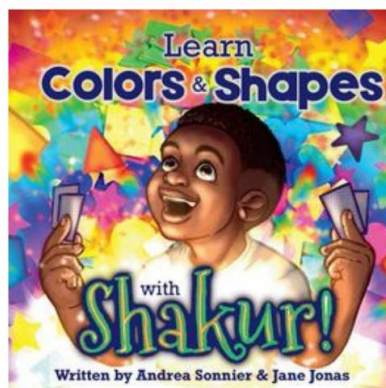
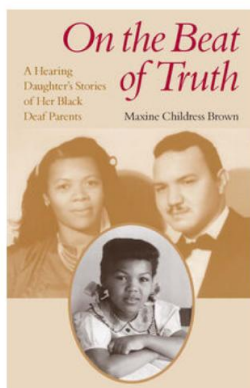
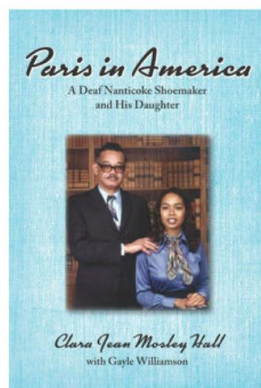
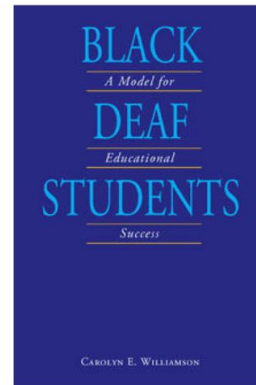
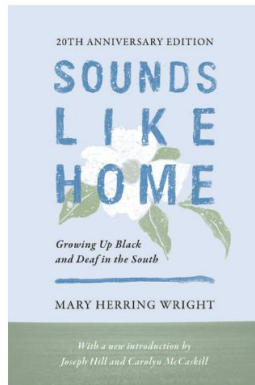
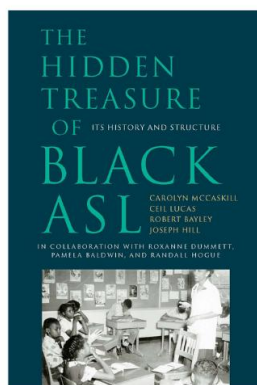
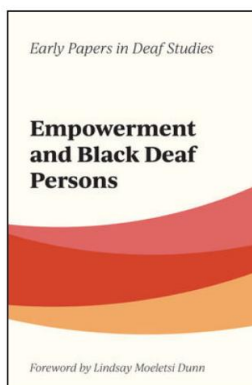
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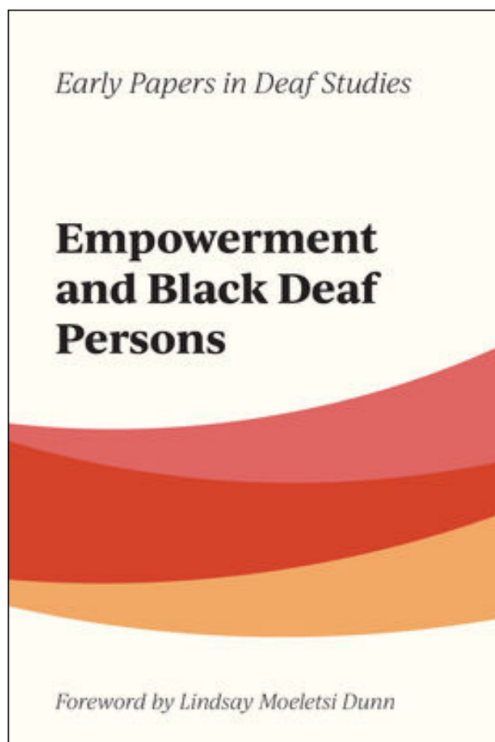
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The journal is published for the purpose of advancing scholarship in disability studies and rehabilitation sciences in a uniquely African context. Widely read by scholars, professionals and students, it encourages scholarly exchange between all disciplines and academics from low, middle and high-income countries to work towards the improvement of human development and its practices across the continent.

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